

REMARKS

The applicants have amended claim 17 so that it is dependent from claim 1. Applicants elect the claims of Group I - claims 1-11, drawn to an electrode. **Because this application is a national phase of a PCT application and unity was determined by the European Patent Office, the applicants believe that a restriction requirement is NOT proper.**

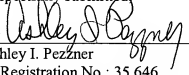
Assuming arguendo that a restriction requirement is proper, Group III should be rejoined with Group I, because if Group I is found allowable, Group III must be allowable since it depends from Group I.

In view of the above, each of the presently pending claims in this application is believed to be in immediate condition for allowance. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to pass this application to issue.

Applicant believes no fee is due with this response. However, if a fee is due, please charge our Deposit Account No. 03-2775, under Order No. 08577-00024-USCO from which the undersigned is authorized to draw.

Dated: December 4, 2003

Respectfully submitted,

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